Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO. 106
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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
DRAGONS LAIR
DIRECT EDITION

HIGH ABOVE MOBIUS' SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE...

THERE IT IS, FREEDOM FIGHTERS...

...THE ENTRANCE TO THE HIDDEN CITY OF STATION SQUARE!

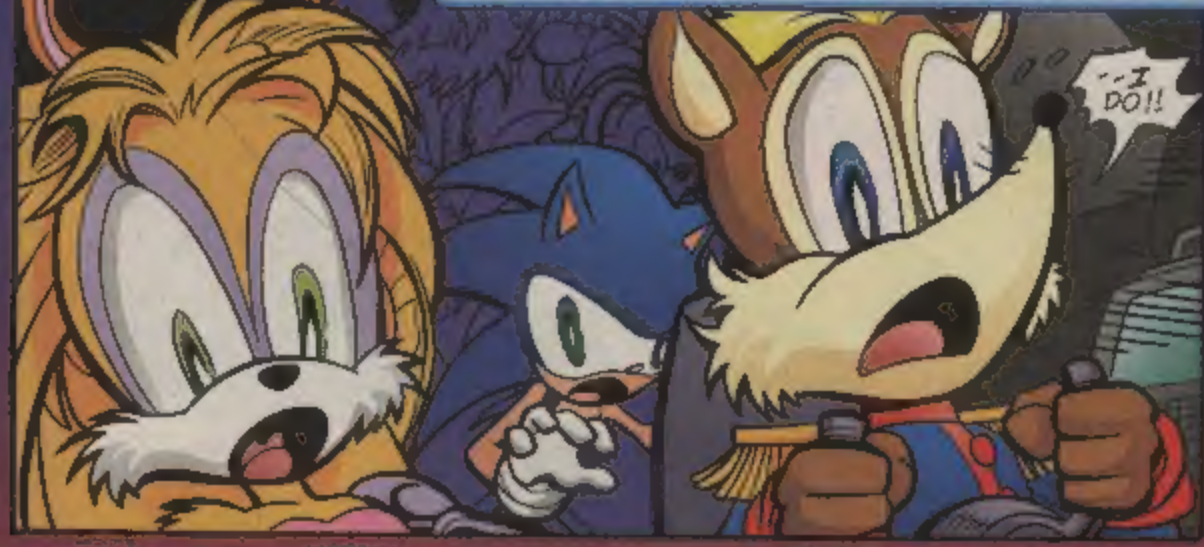
WHO'D EVER BELIEVE AN AIRPLANE CARRYING OVERLANDERS SMACKED INTO THIS MOUNTAIN CENTURIES BACK--

--AND THE SURVIVORS DISCOVERED A LOST CONTINENT BENEATH IT?

TO ANSWER ZAT QUESTION FAIRLY, MON AMI--

CROUCHING HEDGEHOG
臥虎藏龍
HIDDEN DRAGON

KARL BOLLERS WRITER RON LIM PENCILLER [illegible]
JEFF POWELL LETTERER W/ ASSISTS BY [illegible] JOSH & AIMEE RAY COLORISTS J.E. GABRIE EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR
VICTOR GORELICK MANAGING EDITOR RICHARD GOLDWATER EDITOR IN CHIEF



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN 1070-0080). No. 106. Apr., 2002. Published every 4 weeks, twice in May by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2316. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher; Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $1.99 in the U.S.; $2.39 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. $25.87 for 13 issues; $31.07 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds.
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WE MADE IT!

YAAAYY!

WAY TO WINS IT, ANT!

:whew:

We're on a direct HEADING for the Station Square Airstrip, PRINCESS SALLY.

THANKS, NICOLE...

...THE SOONER WE COMPLETE THIS MISSION THE BETTER.

WHAT'S UP WITH SAL?

WE'RE A TEAM AGAIN, BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM TOO JUICED ABOUT IT.

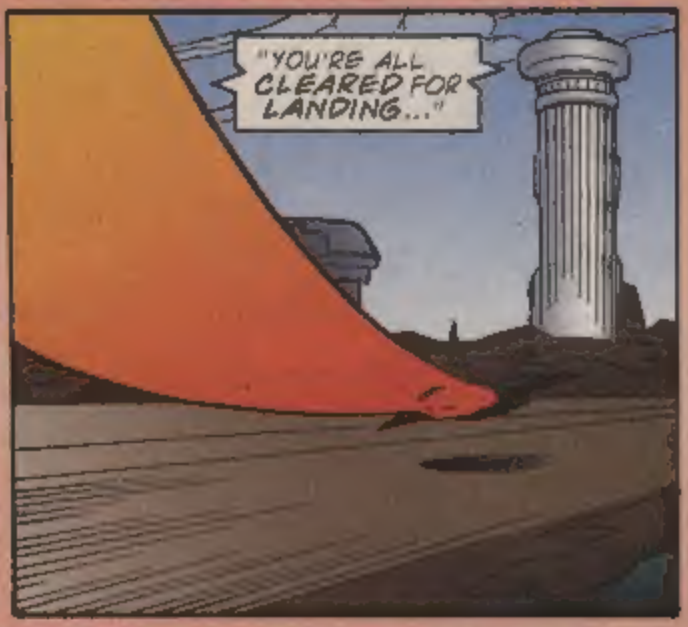
HSOOHW

WHOOAAAA!

HOLD ON!

WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED BACK THERE?
I AM 'AVING NOT ONE CLUE!

FREEDOM FIGHTER SPECIAL, THIS IS STATION SQUARE AIR CONTROL. OVER.
LOUDLY AND CLEARLY, WE ARE READING YOU!


"YOU'RE ALL CLEARED FOR LANDING..."

NOW REMEMBER GANG, THIS COULD BE A STICKY DIPLOMATIC SITUATION...
...SO BE READY FOR ANYTHING!

PAFF
PAFF
MY EYES!
WHAT THE--?

...IN OTHER NEWS, THERE WAS MUCH FANFARE TODAY...

...AS A GROUP OF ANTHROPOMORPHIC DELEGATES ARRIVED FROM THE OVERSEAS KINGDOM OF KNOTHOLE.

THOUGH IMMEDIATELY ESCORTED AWAY BY THE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARY...

...WHEN ASKED HOW IT FELT TO BE IN TOWN, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HAD THIS MUCH TO SAY...
WAY PAST COOL, DUDE!

HA-HA! WAY PAST COOL INDEED!

THE PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE...
PRINCESS SALLY ACORN? KNOTHOLE FREEDOM FIGHTERS? I'M THE PRESIDENT.

WELCOME TO STATION SQUARE! THE LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE YOU DEALT WITH THE MAYOR...
* SEE THE SONIC ADVENTURE GAME ADAPTATION IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG ISSUES #79-85 & SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #13.

...BUT TIMES HAVE CHANGED, FOR THE BETTER.

IF YOU'LL JUST FOLLOW ME THIS WAY...

...I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.
HEL-LO!
WELCOME!

DESCRIBE GOING FROM ZERO MILES PER HOUR TO EIGHTY IN LESS THAN A HEARTBEAT, SONIC...
IT'S MONDO COOL!

SOON...
THEY'RE REFUGEES, WHO HAVE NOWHERE LEFT TO GO.

WHY DON'T THEY JUST RESETTLE IN KNOTHOLE?

THE PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES ARE TOO GREAT--MANY OF THEM ARE SET IN THEIR WAYS.
HOW MANY ARE "MANY"?
APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY FAMILIES.

SEVENTY?!
WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO OFFER US IN RETURN?

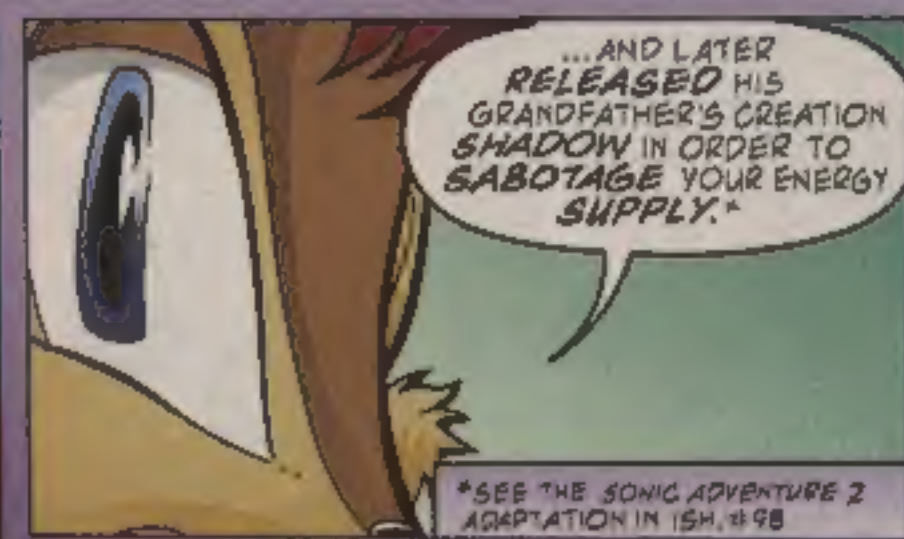
OFFER?! GIMME A BREAK!
YOU MEAN YOU BOZOS AREN'T GONNA HELP BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO?!

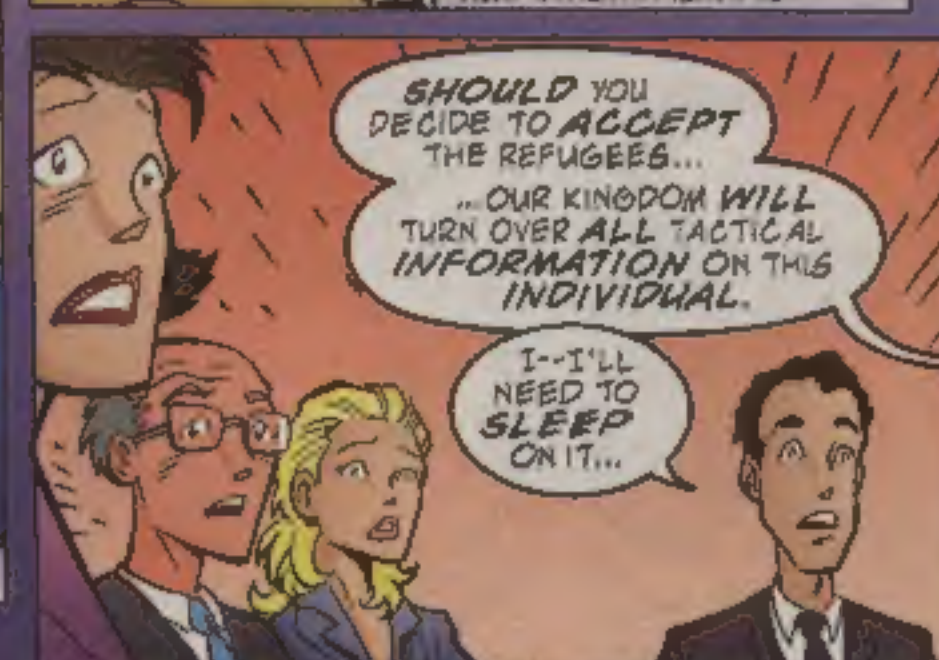
SONIC?
SAL?
SIT.

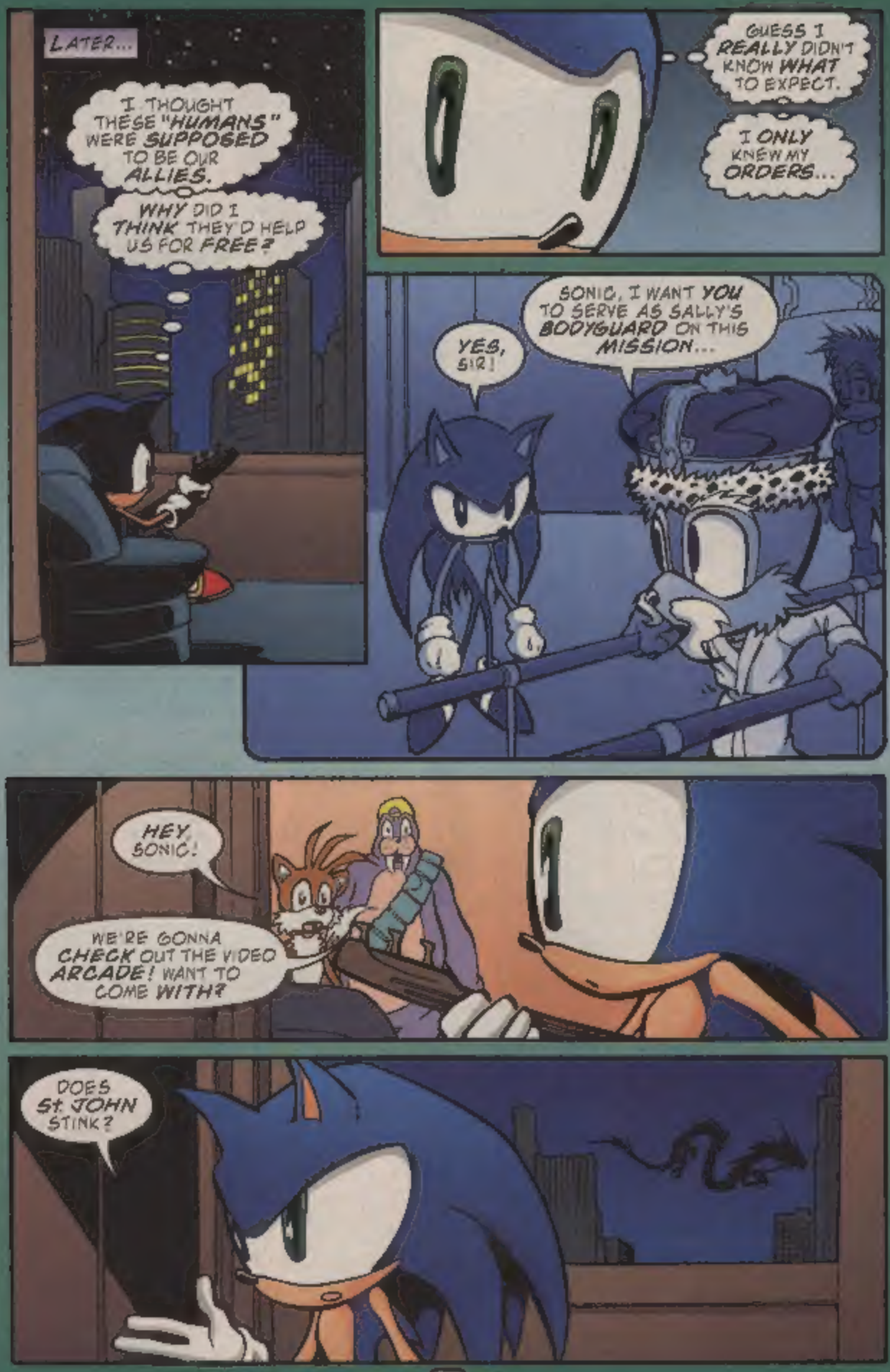
MISTER PRESIDENT... LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

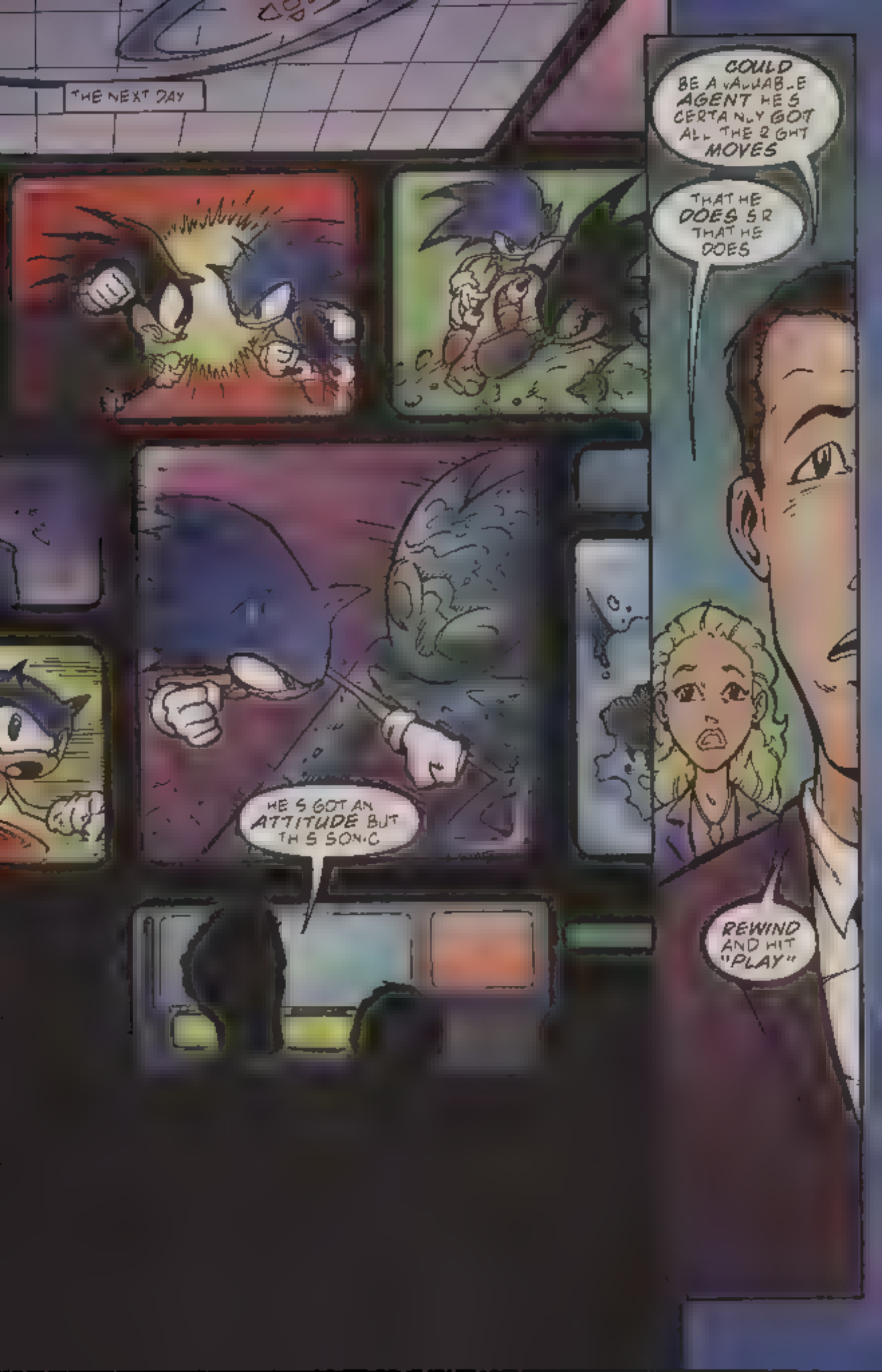
...YOU'RE LOOKING AT DOCTOR ROBOTNIK...

...THE EVIL GENIUS WHO ONCE TRIED TO CONQUER STATION SQUARE USING THE ANCIENT WATER-BEAST, CHAOS*...
*SEE SONIC ADVENTURE GAME ADAPTATION.


...AND LATER RELEASED HIS GRANDFATHER'S CREATION SHADOW IN ORDER TO SABOTAGE YOUR ENERGY SUPPLY.*
*SEE THE SONIC ADVENTURE 2 ADAPTATION IN ISH. #98


SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO ACCEPT THE REFUGEES...
...OUR KINGDOM WILL TURN OVER ALL TACTICAL INFORMATION ON THIS INDIVIDUAL.
I--I'LL NEED TO SLEEP ON IT...


LATER...
I THOUGHT THESE "HUMANS" WERE SUPPOSED TO BE OUR ALLIES.
WHY DID I THINK THEY'D HELP US FOR FREE?
GUESS I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT.
I ONLY KNEW MY ORDERS...
SONIC, I WANT YOU TO SERVE AS SALLY'S BODYGUARD ON THIS MISSION...
YES, SIR!
HEY, SONIC!
WE'RE GONNA CHECK OUT THE VIDEO ARCADE! WANT TO COME WITH?
DOES St. JOHN STINK?

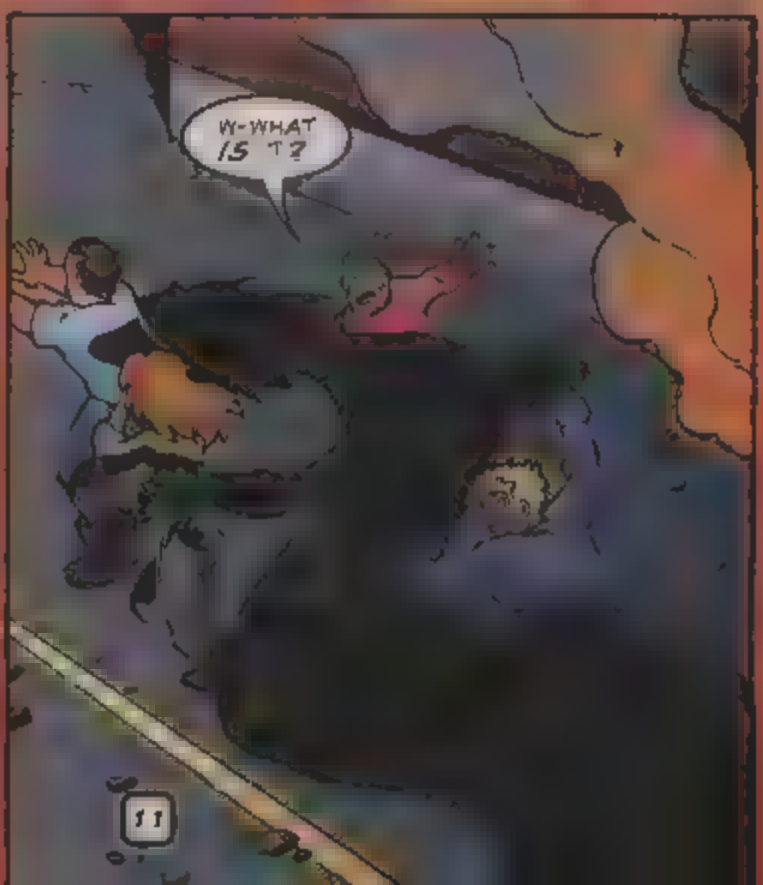

THE NEXT DAY
COULD BE A VALUABLE AGENT HE'S CERTAINLY GOT ALL THE RIGHT MOVES
THAT HE DOES OR THAT HE DOES
HE'S GOT AN ATTITUDE BUT THIS SONIC
REWIND AND HIT "PLAY"

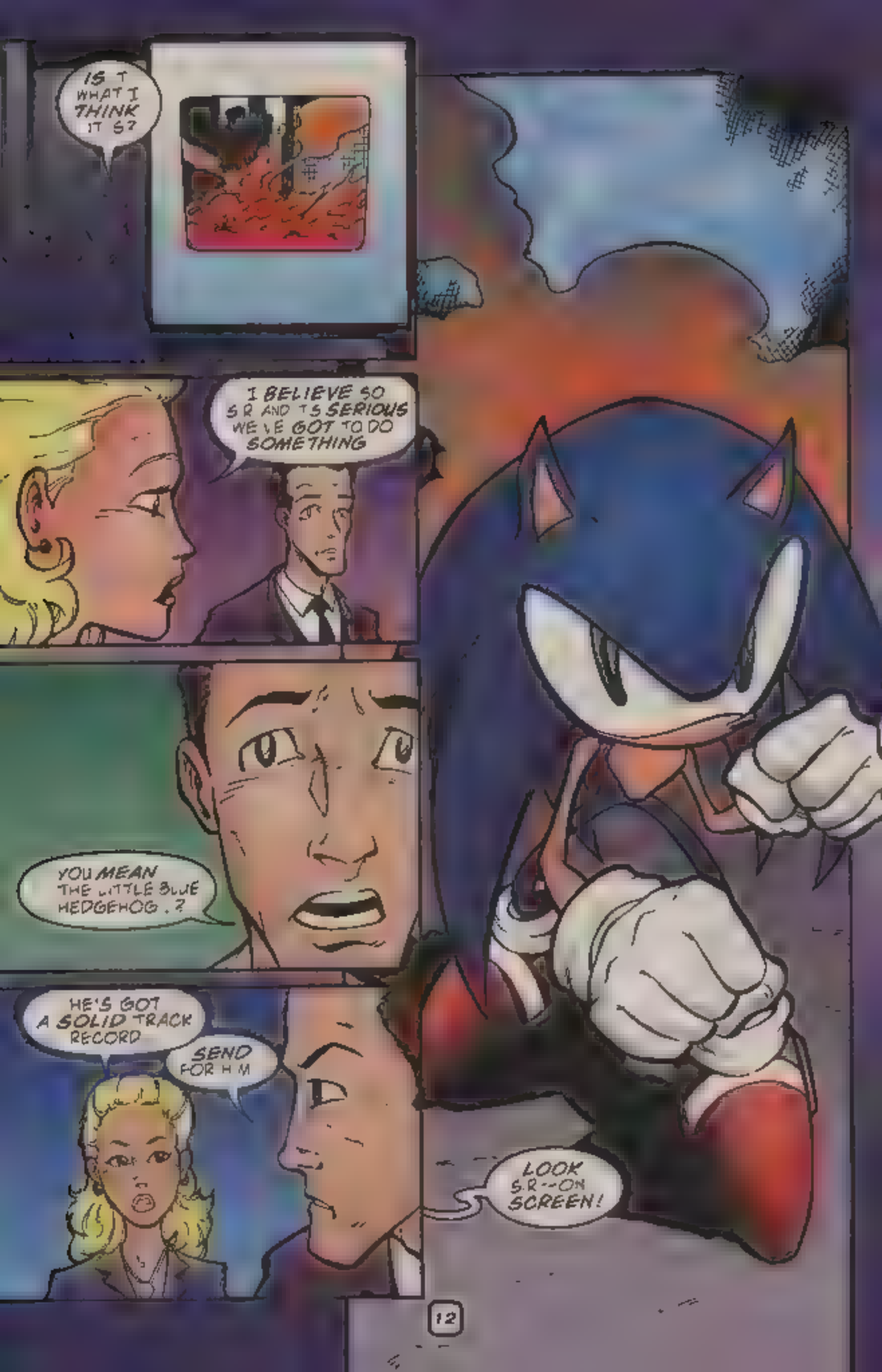
MEANWHILE

OH NO--!
LOOK OUT! IT'S GOING TO--

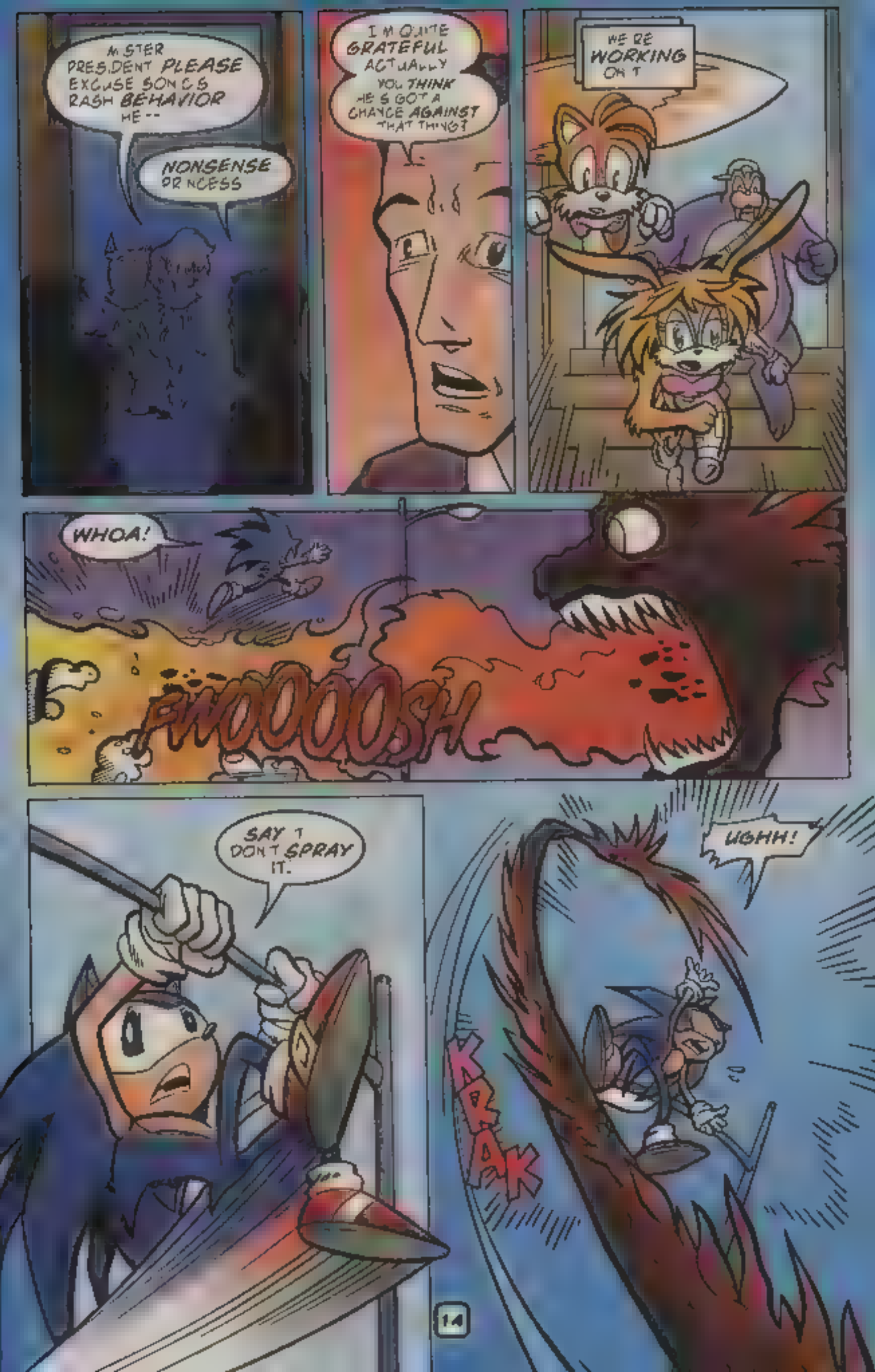
FWOOSH
ATTACK! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

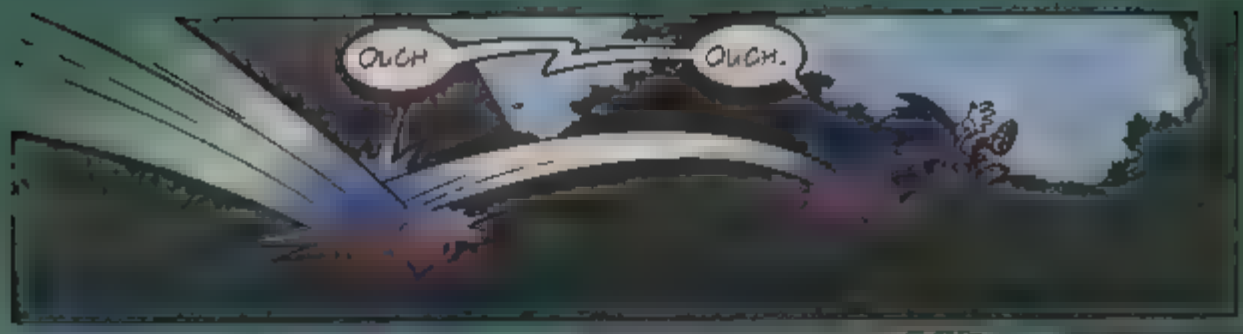
THOOM
THOOM

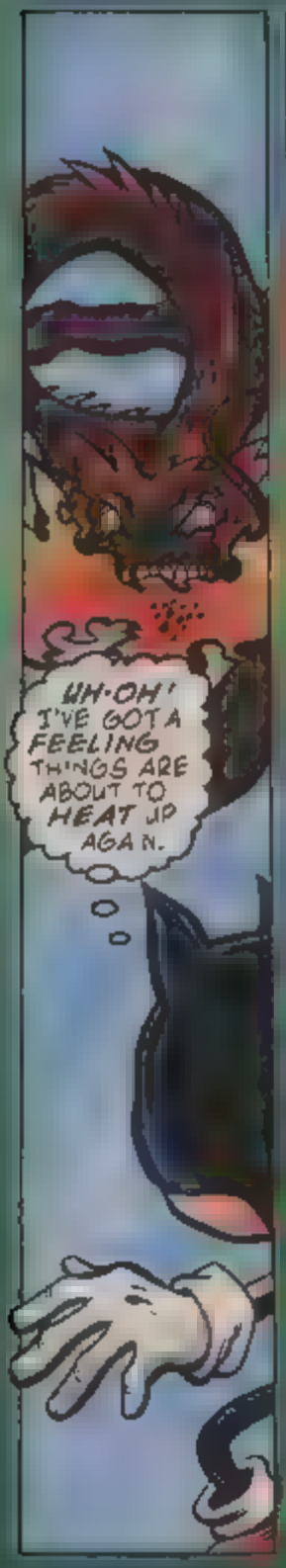

W-WHAT IS IT?

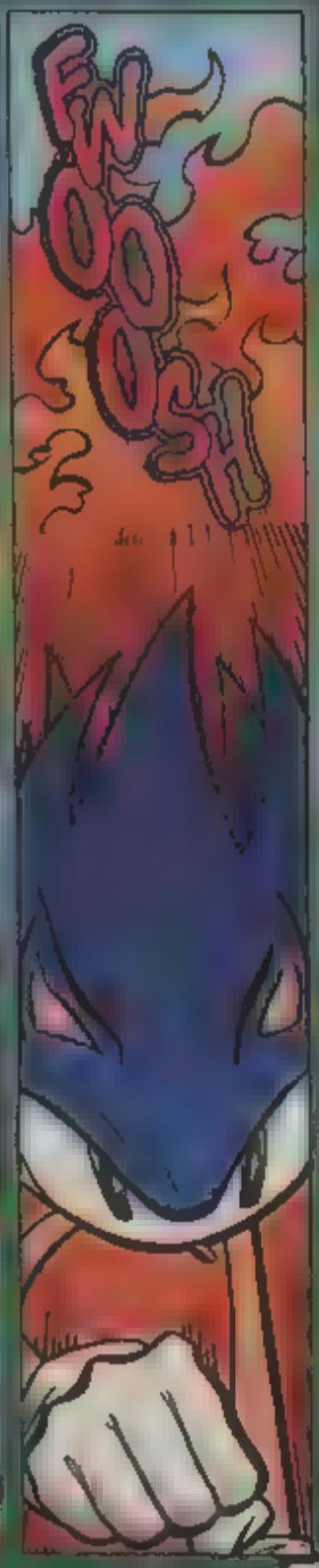

IS T WHAT I THINK IT S?
I BELIEVE SO S R AND T S SERIOUS WE VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING
YOU MEAN THE LITTLE BLUE HEDGEHOG . ?
HE'S GOT A SOLID TRACK RECORD
SEND FOR H M
LOOK S.R --ON SCREEN!

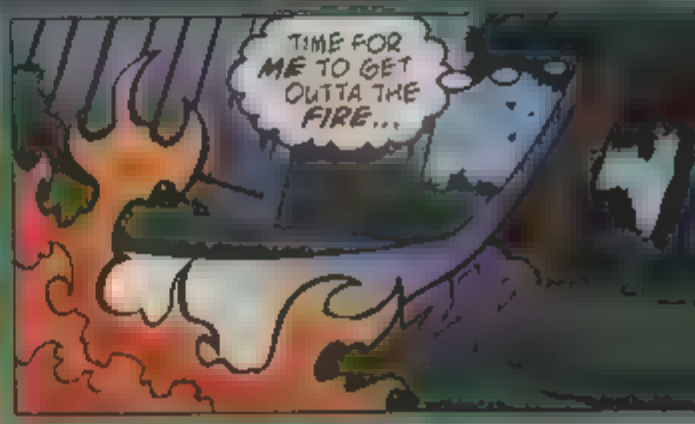
HE'S ALREADY THERE!
CHILL OUT, SCALE-FACE
NEWS


MISTER PRESIDENT PLEASE EXCUSE SONIC'S RASH BEHAVIOR HE--
NONSENSE PRINCESS
I'M QUITE GRATEFUL ACTUALLY YOU THINK HE'S GOT A CHANCE AGAINST THAT THING?
WE'RE WORKING ON IT
WHOA!
FWOOOOOSH
SAY IT DON'T SPRAY IT.
UGHH!
KRAK


OUCH
OUCH.


UH-OH! I'VE GOT A FEELING THINGS ARE ABOUT TO HEAT UP AGAIN.


FWOOOSH


TIME FOR ME TO GET OUTTA THE FIRE...

...AND INTO THE FRYING PAN!

SONIC!

DO YOU SEE PRINCESS SALLY? IF WE WERE TO TAKE IN YOUR REFUGEES ..

... THEY'D HAVE TO LIVE IN A CITY UNDER SIEGE BY DRAGONS!

DON'T COUNT YOUR REPTILES BEFORE THEY'VE HATCHED MISTER PRESIDENT.

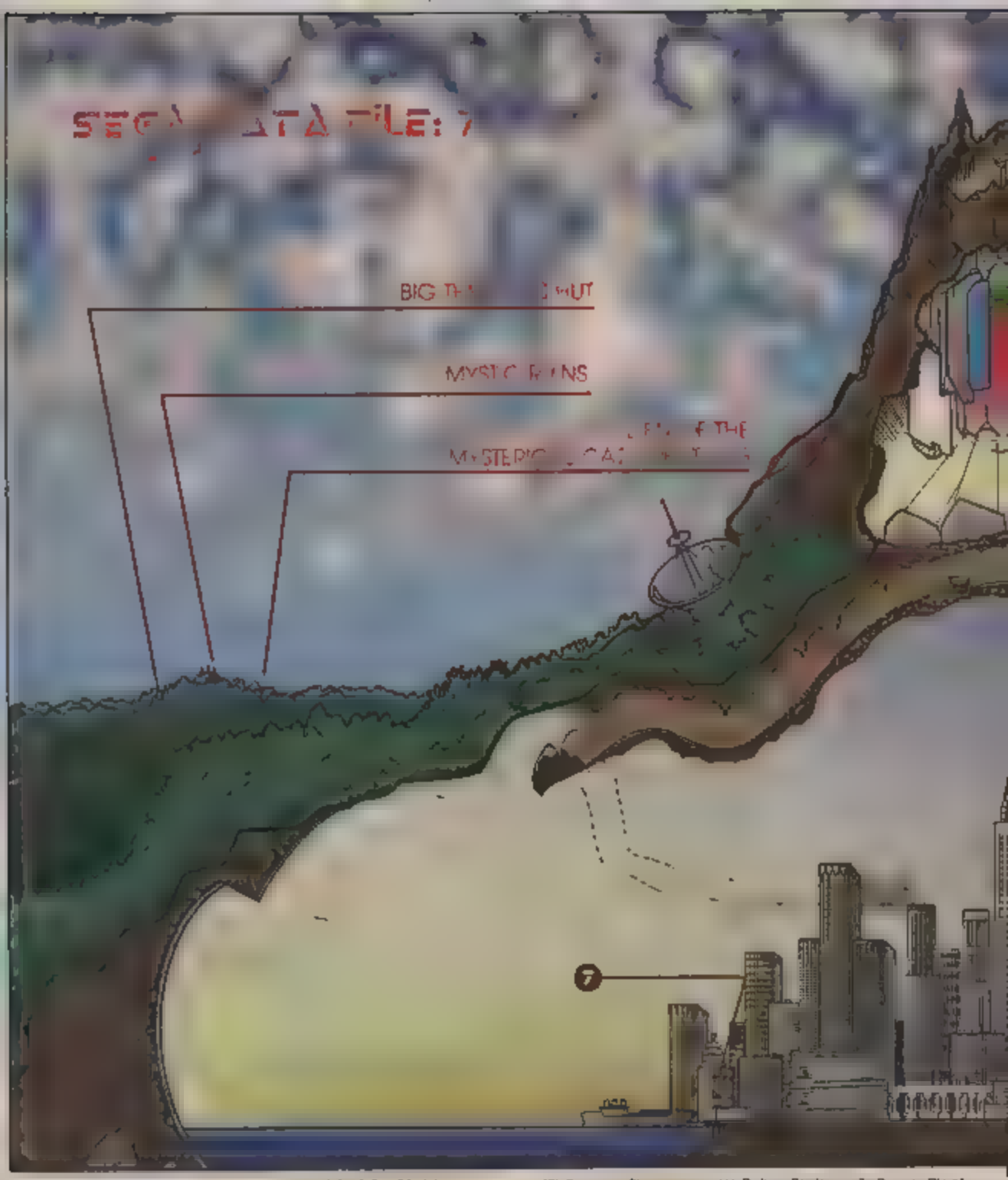
SONIC!

IF WE TAKE CARE OF YOUR DRAGON PROBLEM WILL STAY ON SQUARE ACCEPT THE OVERLANDERS?

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DEAL!

TO BE CONTINUED

SONIC FAN ART



FIRST APPEARANCE: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #80, March 2000

ESTABLISHED: Unknown. Though some evidence has surfaced indicating it dates back at least 500 years, if not more.

LOCATION: Deep beneath a continent located within the southern hemisphere of Mobius.

SURFACE SIZE: 139.92 sq. metrons

HIGHEST POINT: 1.35 metrons from street surface to cavern ceiling

CLIMATE: The temperature is a constant 70 degrees, as the environment is artificially controlled utilizing the heat from magma deep beneath the planet's crust.

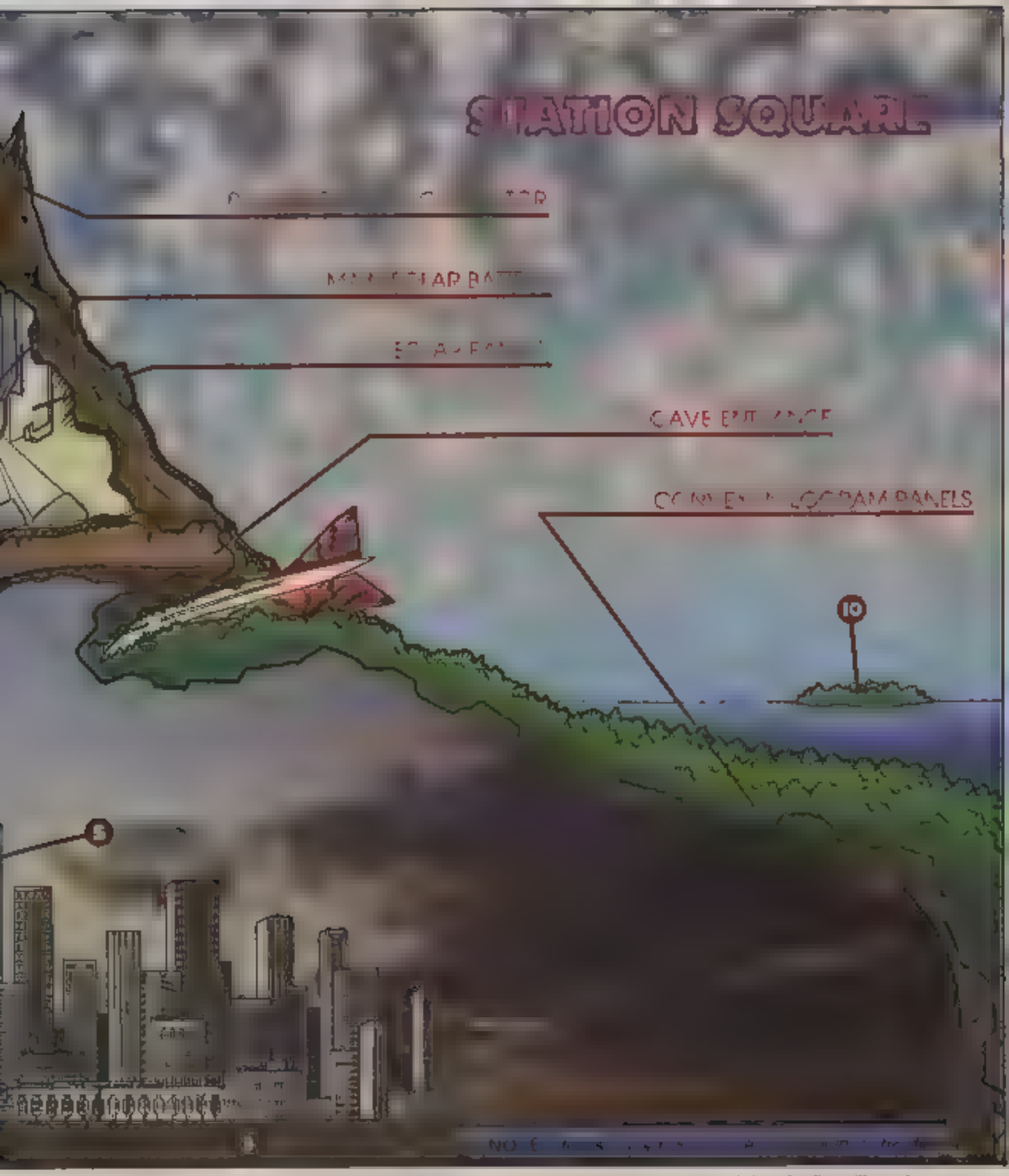
POPULATION: Over 23,856,427 humanoids and an assortment of domesticated pets of various species.

TALLEST BUILDING: Savage Skyscraper - 86 stories plus a mooring mast

POINTS OF INTEREST: (1) Station Square Hotel, (2) Shopping Mall, (3) Eterall System, (4) Mayor's Office, (5) Savage Skyscraper, (6) Police Station, (7) Power Plant, (8) President's Residence, (9) Bank of Station Square, (10) Gun Headquarters (on Prison Island)

HISTORY: Some time in pre-recorded history, there was a great catastrophe that engulfed the entire pre-Mobian world. Whether it was man-made or a natural occurrence is still unknown. Legend went on to record that the passengers of a large craft that soared through the skies crash-landed near a mountain located on one of the continents in the southern hemisphere.

Separated from everyone and everything they once knew, the passengers traveled through an immense cavern that led deep beneath the mountains, finally descending into a hidden land located under the continent. It's widely believed that the caverns shielded the survivors from the worst of the catastrophe. In this



new sanctuary, they began rebuilding their society piece by piece, starting with the basics such as planting farms and building shelters. Because of their advanced knowledge, they were able to create heavy machines in order to build tools, vehicles and bigger buildings to house their growing population.

Within the span of a few generations, what had once been a hamlet of farms was now an immense metropolis, teeming with life under an artificially-created environment. This environment included the illusion of a sky, time of day, weather conditions and a world beyond, a world of which the inhabitants of this city wanted no part of.

With the completion of the their largest building, the Savage Skyscraper, the city was rechristened Station Square, in part due to its elevail transit system that weaves its way through the city like a spider web providing transportation for the citizens from any point throughout to another.

Among the many other features of this world, are the beaches and harbors that are surrounded by a body of water that encircles the entire city with water passages to the oceans above. Beyond the bridges that take one to the other side of the water are Dragon Island, Prison Island, the Emerald Coast and the Mystic Ruins, a site the original settlers discovered while exploring. It was there that they found the six Chaos Emeralds used to provide power for the city's needs.

Since the unexpected discovery of their city by outsiders, the citizens of Station Square have debated whether or not to have any further dealings with the outside world. Only time will tell.

WELCOME TO ECHIDNAS.

IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE ANYONE HAS WALKED THESE STREETS.

SINCE THE DARK LEGION UNLEASHED THE QUANTUM BEAM UPON AN UNSUSPECTING POPULATION, ALL HAS BEEN QUIET--

--UNTIL NOW!

HE WAS BORN TO BE NONE OTHER THAN THE GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, AND NOW

KNUCKLES ECHIDNA

MUST CONFRONT THE ONE BEING HE NEVER IMAGINED!

THIS-- THIS MUST BE THE PLACE!

THAT MEANS- I MADE IT!!

THE BIG QUESTION NOW IS--

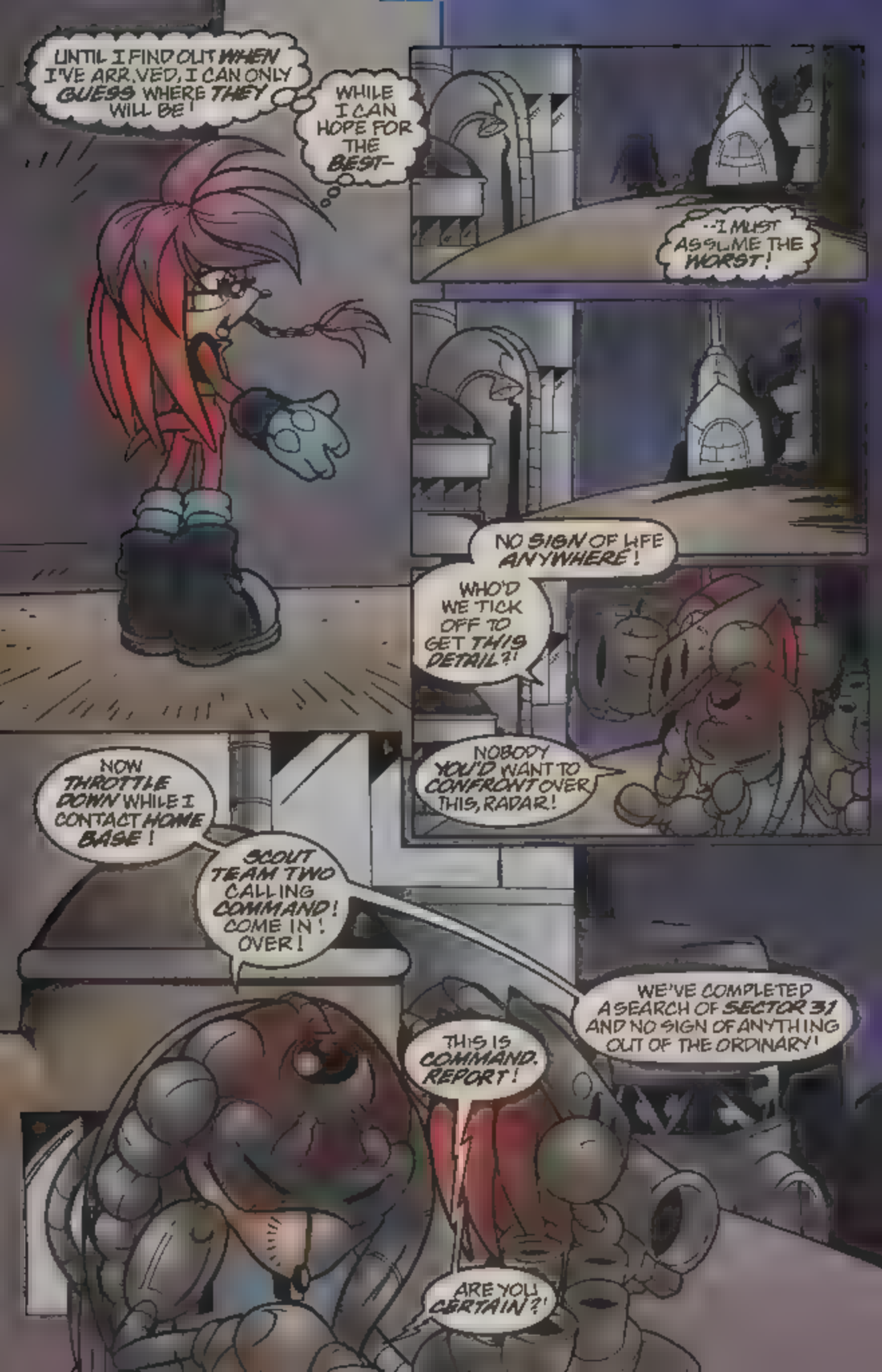
--HAVE I ARRIVED IN TIME?

REUNIFICATION PART 1

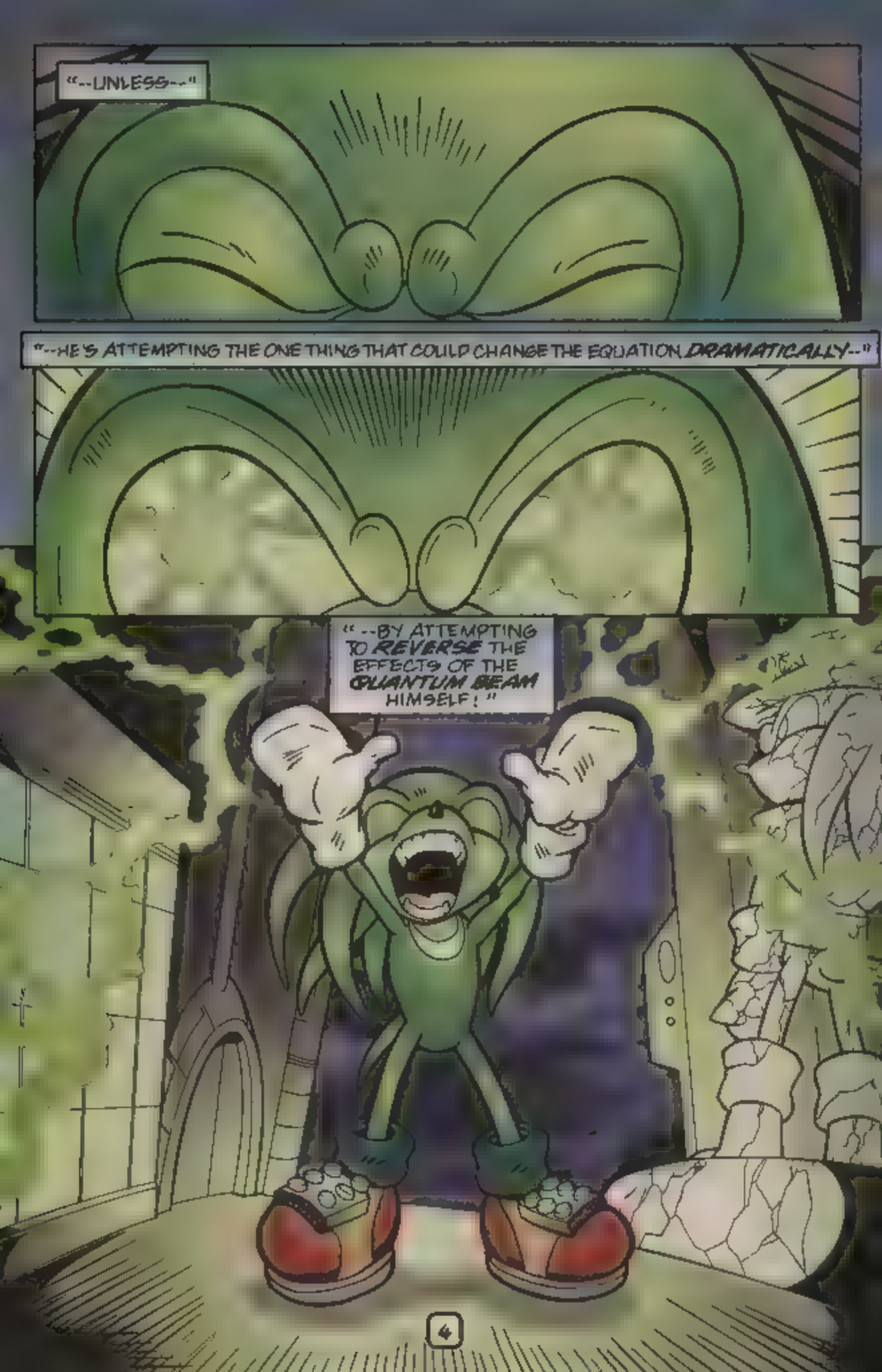
ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE CASCING SAGA OF SEGA'S EVER-POPULAR ECHIDNA, BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

KEN PENDERS-SCRIPT, LAYOUTS & INKS DAWN BEST-PENCILLER

VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERER JOSH RAY-COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR


UNTIL I FIND OUT WHEN I'VE ARRIVED, I CAN ONLY GUESS WHERE THEY WILL BE!
WHILE I CAN HOPE FOR THE BEST–
--I MUST ASSUME THE WORST!
NO SIGN OF LIFE ANYWHERE!
WHO'D WE TICK OFF TO GET THIS DETAIL?!
NOBODY YOU'D WANT TO CONFRONT OVER THIS, RADAR!
NOW THROTTLE DOWN WHILE I CONTACT HOME BASE!
SCOUT TEAM TWO CALLING COMMAND! COME IN! OVER!
WE'VE COMPLETED A SEARCH OF SECTOR 31 AND NO SIGN OF ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY!
THIS IS COMMAND. REPORT!
ARE YOU CERTAIN?!

ABSOLUTELY, GREAT DIMITRI!
DO YOU WANT US TO CONTINUE?
VERY MUCH SO! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES!
OVER AND OUT!
COME!
YOU'RE A DEAR, SWEET GIRL, HEN-DA! WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU'LL MAKE A WORTHY HEIR TO SUCCEED ME--
GRANDFATHER DIMITRI! AND HOW ARE YOU TODAY?
IS YOUR BLOOD SUGAR COUNT AS IT SHOULD BE?
--BUT NOT TODAY!
NOW, SPEAK ON WHAT BRINGS YOU TO MY CHAMBERS?
I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT KNUCKLES HAS LEFT THE BATTLE-CRUISER--
--AND HAS BEEN ON THE FLOATING ISLAND FOR THE PAST SEVERAL HOURS.
WHHHAAAATT?!
COULD IT BE HIM THAT THE SENSORS WERE DETECTING EARLIER?
WHATEVER COULD HE BE UP TO?


"--UNLESS--"
"--HE'S ATTEMPTING THE ONE THING THAT COULD CHANGE THE EQUATION, DRAMATICALLY--"
"--BY ATTEMPTING TO REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF THE QUANTUM BEAM HIMSELF!"

NOT EVEN A *MOUSE* CAN BE SEEN SCAMPERING ABOUT!

I MUST HAVE ARRIVED WHEN *EVERY-ONE* FROM THE ISLAND WAS IN *ANOTHER ZONE*!

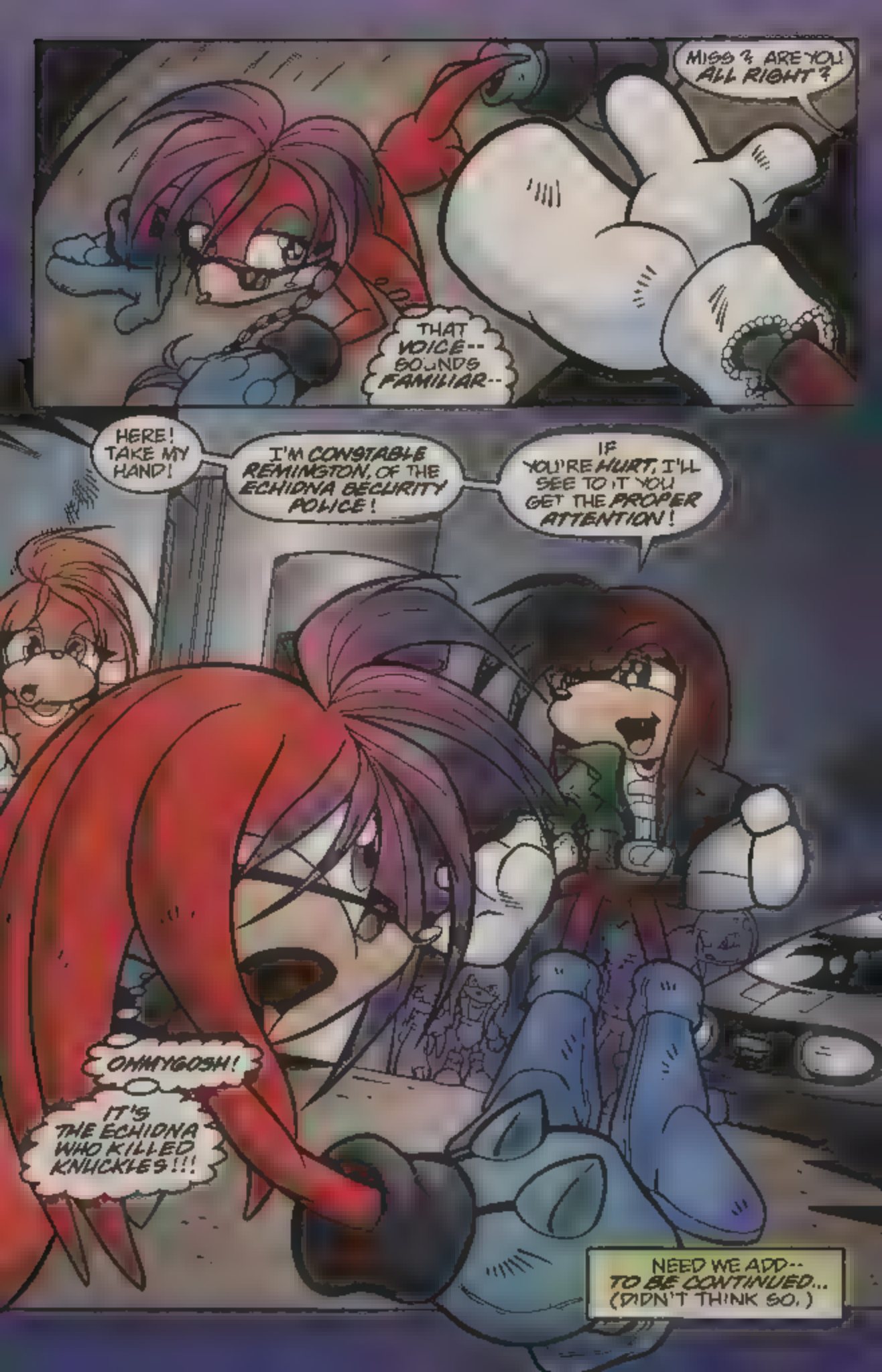
STRANGE! ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE WINDS ARE BEGINNING TO PICK UP!

BUT THERE'S NOT A CLOUD IN THE SKY!

SINCE WHEN WAS THERE *EVER* A *HURRICANE* ON THE ISLAND?!!

TAKING ALL MY STRENGTH-- AND *MORE*--TO KEEP FROM--

WOOOF!


MISS? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THAT VOICE-- SOUNDS FAMILIAR--
HERE! TAKE MY HAND!
I'M CONSTABLE REMINGTON, OF THE ECHIDNA SECURITY POLICE!
IF YOU'RE HURT, I'LL SEE TO IT YOU GET THE PROPER ATTENTION!
OHMYGOSH!
IT'S THE ECHIDNA WHO KILLED KNUCKLES!!!
NEED WE ADD-- TO BE CONTINUED... (DIDN'T THINK SO.)

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SONIC GRAMS

On Panel

THIS JUST IN!

NEXT ISSUE: It looks like Karl and Ron have done it again. Done what? You'll have to read "Crouching Hedgehog, Hidden Dragon, Part 2," wherein the conclusion will be revealed. This one will rock you. As for Knuckles, things take a different turn as Dimitri personally goes before the High Council again to plead his case. Will he be more successful this time? Only Ken and Dawn know for sure. Put this one on your must-buy list.

And now it's time for the readers to make themselves heard, and boy, did they ever regarding SONIC #103. While the majority of you guys wrote expressing how much you liked it, a number of the younger readers were more than a tad curious about the source material for the story. Fortunately, a British lad came to our aid:

Dear Sonic-Grams,

Well, by now most Sonic fans have probably picked up SatR #103, read it, and enjoyed some decent art in the main story for a change. If you're like me, you flipped out when you heard about this issue a few months ago - becoming a fan of the "Guardians of the Galaxy" 2 years ago after obtaining a copy of issue #24 in a grab-bag, this was another comic cross-over between two of my favourite (albeit completely unrelated) properties; first came the Image crossover (which was pretty good) also drawn by Jim Valentino, then the Sailor Moon one (which was okay). So, when SatR 103 arrived last week, I dove in with great expectations, and was not disappointed - I was even surprised (more on that later).

However, if you're "not" like me and have never been into GOTG (or perhaps not even hearing about it before this issue was announced), chances are you might be a little lost when reading this particular Sonic story, which I'll remember is paying homage to/satirising which Guardian? Or, "what" are they supposed to be? "And who the heck were the Guardians, anyway?" Someone's gotta be wondering about that, especially if they had never heard of GOTG before. Well, for those of you who are in the latter camp, I'm going to help you out. I'll present a listing of who's supposed to be who, and list various tidbits of information about each character. Before we get onto characters, it is worth noting is that both this Sonic-Alternaverse and the GOTG continuity feature origins so similar, it's not necessary to type all of the differences out - what you read in this Sonic story is a SatAR/Archie-fied version of the events which took place a thousand years before GOTG's chain of events.

What happened that millennia ago in the GOTG timeline was revealed to Yondu and Vance (and readers) in a pseudo-holographic recording in GOTG #1. And now, the key players of both universes:

Sonic: Major Vance Astro - "First Earthman to the stars, last survivor of the 20th Century! His body forever sheathed in the silver and black suit that preserves his life, he is the master of the mutant power of Psychokinesis!" [GOTG #1]. More or less the 'Leader' of the Guardians from the start, Vance would later take off his suit in GOTG #20 (check it out using the links above) and be revealed as the heir of Captain America - right down to the 'American' costume and indestructible shield. I'm willing to bet that Sonic takes on a similar form in SatR #104...or maybe Jim and Mike will have Knuckles fill that role... Talon (Talk): Talon - Introduced in #17, but wasn't 'revealed' (or 'seen outside of a shadowed silhouette [sic]') until #19. Talon is a cat-man (appears to be in his mid-to-late teens, human-wise), born on the moon, and a would-be magician; his mentor gave up on teaching him when it became obvious that Talon was more interested in performing 'tricks' than actually learning about mystic stuff. He's quite an outgoing, 'everybody's pal' sort of character, with a healthy sense of humour and an affinity for taking the bright side of things - he's quite a jokester. He's

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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited.
Thanks for understanding!

kind of got the personality of a party-animal teenager or surfer dude (note the 'kind of'). He once said of himself, "Hey, I may be a flake, but I'm a loveable one!" [GOTG #24]. I would say he's got a personality more akin to Sonic (sans the sarcasm and vanity) than Tails, but since Sonic was taking the lead role (literally and figuratively), Tash was a far better choice to fill Talon's shoes than, say, Geoff St. John or Rotor - or even Knuckles. On the other hand, considering that Talon has the kind of personality that, unfortunately, Talon doesn't seem to exhibit (despite being "around" the same age range), I guess it's kind of a moot point...

Captain Roter-27 (Rotor): Captain Charlie-27 - "Fifth-Generation Militia-Man and last survivor of Earth's Jupiter Colony" [GOTG #1]. Charlie-27 is the team's heavy-weapons guy; when the Guardians went into battle against a revamped-for-the-30th-century Marvel villain, Chuck would usually run in brandishing a home-made BFG (as for what 'BFG' stands for: if you have to ask, you'll never know ;]). Possessing a personality that is equal parts 'tough guy' and 'nice guy,' Rotor fits into Charlie-27's role like a glove.

Saleta (Sally): Aleta - though her physical form was shared with Starhawk (see below), Aleta still managed to hold her own in the team, and was Vance's love interest to boot. That is, right up until Starhawk secretly took on a 'God' form (I think) and 'swallowed' her very being, trapping Aleta within his realm, where she stayed in a torturous state of limbo until...ah, skip it! I'm missing a few of the early issues anyway, so there's probably a bunch of details I'm gonna unintentionally fail to mention. Needless to say, she escaped, Starhawk reverted (again, I think), and so on. It's worth mentioning that Saleta and Sonic's costumes are the most similar in detail and design to their 'original' counterparts. So further kudos to Jim Valentino, everyone!

Bunni (Bunnie): Nikki - "Last child of Earth's mercury colony; the agility of her limbs is exceeded only by the unerring skill of her marksmanship - and the sting of her sarcasm!" [GOTG #1]. Nikki, as the above description implies, can best be described as a fire-girl, with flames for 'hair'. Mike Gallagher does a joke on this aspect of the original design when he writes that those from Bunni's planet had hair that only resembled fire due to static electricity - somewhat clever! I don't particularly mind that Gallagher removed the sarcasm aspect of Nikki's character for translation to 'Bunni' - this was a better move than removing Talon's personality from Tails.

Twan-Do (Antoine): Yondu - "Last son of Earth's only extra-stellar colony, Centauri IV; Primitive Mystic and Weapons Master" [GOTG #1]. Yondu, being the supposed last of his alien species, carried on his civilization's traditions - among them wearing his 'fin' with pride. Like Bunni, Mike makes a joke out of this, stating that Twan-Do's people comb their toupees to look like fins. It might be two hair jokes in one issue, but it works. Also, Yondu lost his hand in battle, and replaced it with a multi-purpose wrist-thing (picture a pirates hook without the hook, and you'll get the idea), something that doesn't apply to Twan-Do - guess someone figured this Alterna-verse was 'dark' enough already :]. However, Yondu did use a bow and arrow a few times in the Guardians' battles; here, Twan uses an arrow with a boxing glove on it, which could not only be considered another in-joke, but could also be a reference to Green Arrow, a DC comics character who uses a bow and 'trick' arrows (including a boxing-glove arrow).

Hawkhawk: Starhawk "Enigmatic mutant from the Planet Arcturus, shares his physical being with the woman, Aleta" [GOTG #3]. Starhawk was one of those characters in every team book who, despite being an original member, left the series at one point, only to return later, for better or worse. The stuff listed in Saleta's section about him is more or less all I know about him right now, though I'll go out on a limb and assume that not many here will be too interested in the character beyond his connection to Sonic.

And Silver Sonely, of course, is the Silver Surfer (I suppose the words "Bad Boy" on the bottom of his board is a play on the surfer/boarder aspect of the character), heralding the coming of Galactus (or Robofactus), his creator, and the Eater of Worlds (literally). Originally appearing in a Golden-Age issue of the Fantastic Four, the Silver Surfer and Galactus spelled doom for planets across the Marvel universe - right up until the Surfer turned against his master and became a hero. As I said in an earlier post to Powercone, this 'Freedom Fighters of the Galaxy' arc is "very" similar to the events of GOTG 24-25, where the Surfer seeks out the aid of the Guardians to stop Galactus from attempting to consume Earth (again).

whew So, there you have it - a semi-guide to the Guardians of the Galaxy, for use with Sonic #103. And yet my fingers aren't tired.

Mike-Online

Mine would be exhausted at this point, Mike, and I do this for a living, but I'm sure many of our readers are very much appreciative for the info. Consider yourself an honorary Freedom Fighter for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Dear Sonic-grams:

I like Sonic the Hedgehog issue #103! I liked the backup story with the return of the Downunda Freedom Fighters! How about a backup story with the return of the Wolf Pack where Lupe who was ROBOTICISED is suddenly bought back to life first as a ghost and then for real? Would that make a great story idea? **Darryl Heine**

Maybe someday, but would you settle for a Chaotix story as well? That one we have in the works for an upcoming appearance when you least expect.

That's it for this issue.

More next time.

See you in 4 weeks.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION. 1. Publication Title: Sonic the Hedgehog. 2. Publication Number: 1070-5090. 3. Filing Date: November 7, 2000. 4. Issue Frequency: Every 4 Weeks. 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 13. 6. Annual Subscription Price: $25.6?. 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Publisher: Michael I. Silberkleit and Richard Goldwater, 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Editor: Richard H. Goldwater, 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Managing Editor: Victor Gorelick, 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. 10. Owner: Sega of America Dreamcast, Inc., 650 Townsend St., San Francisco, CA, 94103-4908. 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None. 12. Not Applicable. 13. Publication Title: Sonic the Hedgehog. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: #ST-#93. 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: 15a. Total Number of Copies: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 73,261. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 68,585. 15b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 26,985. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 29,594. 2. Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 0. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0. 3. Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 3,682. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 3,168. 4. Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 0. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0. 15c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 30,665. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 32,762. 15d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free): 1. Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 293. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 292. 2. In-County as Stated on Form 3541: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 0. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0. 3. Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: Average No. copies Each Issue During the Preceding 12 Months: 0. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 0. 15e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means): Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 141. No. Copies Single Issue Published Nearest To Filing Date: 144. 15f. Total Free Distribution: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 435. No. Copies Single Issue Published Nearest To Filing Date: 436. 15g. Total Distribution: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 31,100. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 33,188. 15h. Copies not Distributed: Average No. copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 2,161. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 2,116. 15i. Total: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 33,267. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 35,304. 15j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 98.60%. No. Copies Single Issue Published Nearest To Filing Date: 98.69%. 16. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the #105 issue of this publication. 17. I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete. For completion by publishers mailing at the regular rates (Section 132.121, Postal Service Manual): 39 U.S.C. 3626 provides in pertinent part: "no person who would have been entitled to mail matter under former section 4359 of this title shall mail such matter at the rates provided under this subsection unless he files annually with the Postal Service a written request for permission to mail matter at such rates." In accordance with the provisions of this statute, I hereby request permission to mail the publication named in item 1 at the phased postage-rates presently authorized by 39 U.S.C. 3626. Fred Mausser Vice President-Director Of Circulation

Cover illustration by Patrick Spaziante and Nelson Ribeiro with colors and separations by Josh D. Ray. Edit page layout & design by JoeyeF.

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